

QUEENS BOOKS GET FUNCTIONAL HOME

**Roomy \$5.7-Million Library
Replaces One 35 Years Old**

By PHILIP H. DOUGHERTY

Thousands of books were moved five blocks yesterday from the old to the new Queens Borough Central Library—from the high-ceilinged but cramped elegance of the past to the streamlined, spacious functionalism of tomorrow.

"Simple, clean, sharp," said Harold W. Tucker, the chief librarian, almost purring with pleasure as he looked over the far reaches of the new \$5.7-million plant at Merrick Boulevard and 89th Avenue.

"This is the most modern example of functional library building," he said, pointing to the supermarket-like checkout counters, the belt line that takes returned books to the basement, the electric dumbwaiters that gobble up whole book carts and the wonderful, wonderful space.

Moving vans began moving the half-million books Monday. It will take about two weeks to transfer them and all the periodicals, newspapers and furniture to their new home. Planning for the move started in December, 1964.

Sticker on Everything

The move is complicated by the fact that the new library will introduce a new method of library organization. But all was worked out in advance and each book in the old building bears a sticker marking its destination in the new. Each cart loaded by movers is supervised by women librarians wearing unaccustomed slacks on the job. Each cart gets a sticker, too.

The old place, four stories high, Georgian in style and 35 years old, is at 89-14 Parsons Boulevard. It is destined to be a branch of Family Court. It closed Monday and its entrances are surrounded by signs that say so, but readers still knock on the doors.

It is the headquarters for the Queens Public Library system, as the new building will be. The new two-story building, designed by York & Sawyer, Kiff, Colean, Voss & Souder, architects, is bigger than the old in every way but height. The floor space is 195,000 square feet instead of 75,000; book capacity 860,000 instead of 350,000 and readers' seats 1,000 instead of 271. It also has an auditorium and film library, which the old library did not have.

And another thing, as the proud chief librarian quickly pointed out: "Since 1900 librarians have been trying to get all public services on one floor and this is the first time it's been done."